(b) if so, the details of the Assembly Resolution and the demands made therein; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCE (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The resolution of Maharashtra Assembly demand that the State of Maharashtra be given equitable benefits by making necessary technical changes in the proposed national project for interlinking of river, to bring the waters of northern rivers into the deficit basins of Godavari, Krishna, Bhima and Tapi in Maharashtra, by means of tunnels of lift across the Vindhya Mountains. Financial provisions be made by the Central Government to the tune of 10% of the cost of Rs. 5,60,000 crore or the increased cost that may be updated in future, of national river linking project for irrigation development in State taking into account the water requirement of the State. The resolution further resolved that the Central Government be requested to take into account the strong feelings of the members of this house regarding injustice to the State of Maharashtra in distribution of water and give a concrete assurance in this regard immediately.

(c) The Central Government envisages a comprehensive review of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

Task Force Constituted on 13th December, 2002

†*116. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Task Force which was constituted on 13th December, 2002 for the study of the scheme of transfer of water from surplus too water deficits areas and to connect Peninsular rivers with the rivers flowing from the Himalayas for the optimum use of water resources;

(b) if so, the outline thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative by when it is likely to be received and the number of meetings of the task force held, so far?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force submitted Action Plan-I on 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. Action Plan-II was submitted on 16.4.2004. The important issues such as appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans; suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States; prioritization of the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation; suitable organizational structure for implementing the project; various modalities for project funding; international dimensions that may be involved in some project components and cost recovery have been discussed in Action Plan II.

(c) The Task Force has held 14 meetings in all.

Revenue Collections

*117. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, for the first time, been able to make revenue collections for fiscal 2003-04 which have exceeded budget estimates since 1995-96;

(b) if so, what was the total provisional figure for fiscal ending 31st March, 2004 and to what extent it has been more than budget estimates;

(c) what are the main reasons therefor; and

(d) what further steps are being considered to collect more revenue in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The provisional total direct and indirect tax revenue collections for the 2003-04 financial year is Rs. 2,52,612 Crore as against the Budget